



THE SWANWICK MANSION

Grand Cote – Perry County

Situated in the extreme northwestern portion of the county, lies Grand Cote Precinct. It is bounded on the north by Washington County, on the east by Beaucoup, on the south by Cutler, and on the west by Randolph County. Much of the surface, which is level, was formerly covered with timber.

The only prairie is that bearing the same name as the precinct. Much of the timber remains undisturbed. The Cairo Short Line Railroad enters at section 36, passing through the precinct in a northwesterly direction and passes out at section 7. This precinct has no water courses. It comprises all of congressional town four south, range four, and two tiers of sections in the northern part of town five, range four.

The soil is fertile and productive. Agriculture is the principal occupation of its inhabitants. The population, according to the 1880 census, was 941.

Grand Cote, from the French, meaning Beautiful Prairie, was first settled by Thomas Swanwick, who came from Chester, England, and located on the northwest quarter and the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 11, township 4, Range 4, which he had entered February 13, 1818. The lands first settled by Thomas Swanwick are now occupied by J.J. Swanwick, his son, who is past the meridian of life, a most estimable and respected citizen. With Thomas Swanwick came James McMurdo to the western county. The second settler in Grand Cote was William P. Elliott, from the State of Georgia. He located on section 20, Township 4, Range 4 about the year 1820. He brought his family in the spring of 1821. Next came Jonathan Petit in the spring of 1825, from Randolph County, from what was then known as the "Irish Settlement." He located on Section 30, Township 4, Range 4. Petit sold out his claim to one Absalom Wilson, a native of Washington County, Virginia, who did not move upon the land until 1840. George Cherry, of the Chester District, South Carolina, arrived the same year, 1825, and located on section 5. He resided there until his death March, 1867. In 1828, James Kirkpatrick, a native of South Carolina, settled on section 9, on lands now occupied by B. Semple. So far as we are able to learn, these men who came to Grand Cote were its original pioneers.

From some cause, between the years of 1829-1833, no additions were made to this little band of bold and venturesome pioneers, who formed the nucleus, in their wild and almost unbroken lands, of what is now one of the most prosperous and refined farming communities in the little county.

About 1836, John Hughey settled on Section 26 (our land). James Bathon farm From this time the settlers flowed into the precinct very rapidly, among whom we might mention the Craigs, Justices, and others and the country was filled up almost as by magic.

SWANWICK – This little village was laid out by William Moore and surveyed and platted by D.C. Benson, deputy county surveyor, May 27, 1871. Its location is the SE of the NE of section 21, Township 4, Range 4. It is a station on the Cairo Short Line Railroad. The present business of the village is as follows: Physician, W.H. Ferguson; general merchants Harmon & Adair, William Gray. Postmaster, William Gray; blacksmith, James Luna, Carpenter, A. Shockency; grain dealer W. Sokup; carriage maker, D.J. Woodside.

CRAIG – this hamlet is a station on the Cairo Short Line Railroad and is situated on the east half of Section 25, Township 4, Range 4 and on the boundary between Grand Cote and Pinckneyville. It was laid out by William Craig and surveyed and platted by William Golightly, county surveyor, October 23, 1871. The postmaster is J. Allen. A general store is kept by W.L. Pennoyer. This town later became known as Winkle.

Materials taken from Perry County Illinois USA – compiled from early historical resources by Barbara and Doug Rebok, A Plus Printing Company. Tucson, AZ 85712
Website: aplusprint.com

Nancy Swanwick

I got this note from Nancy in 2013.

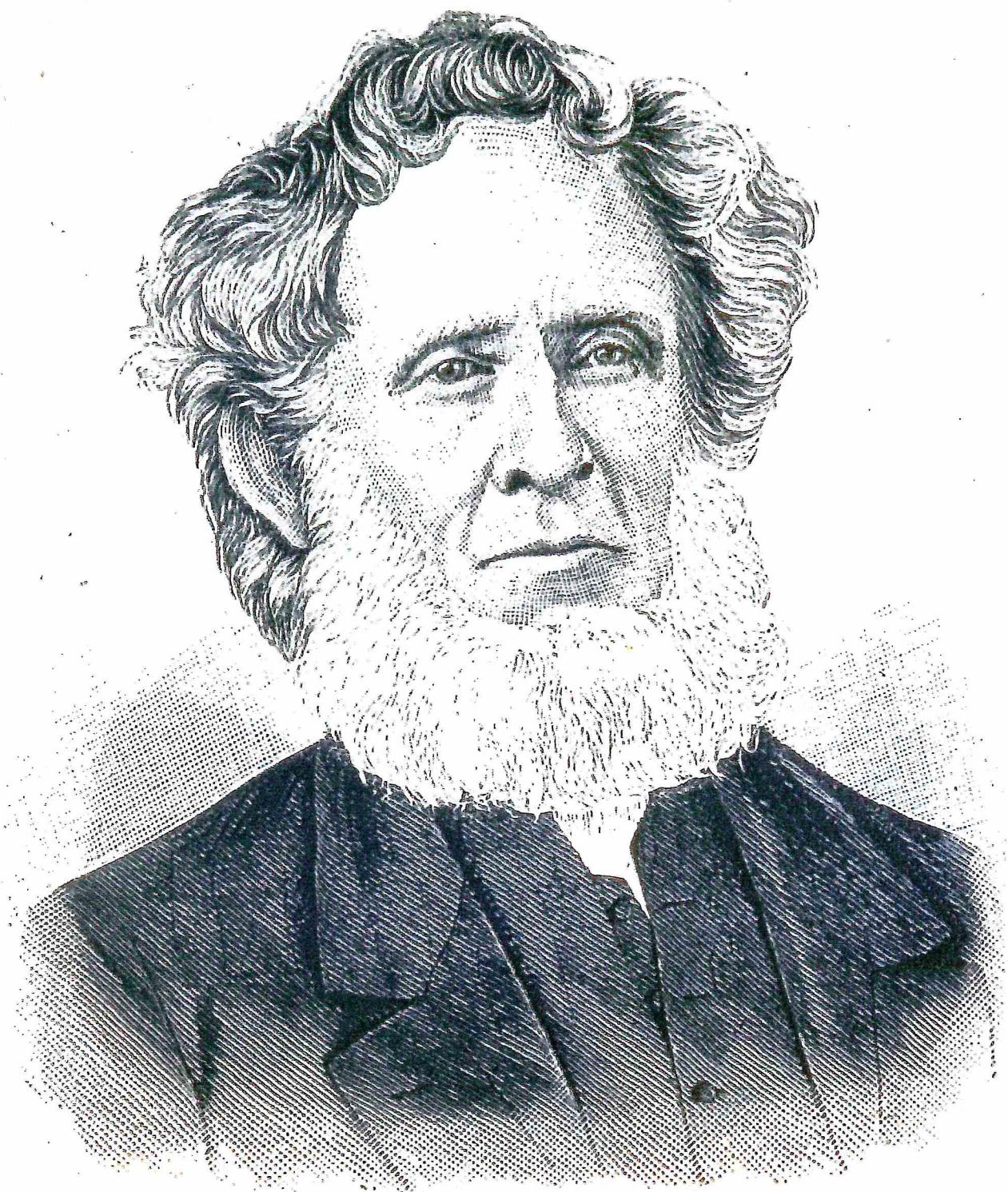
My husband's direct line goes through Francis Swanwick, born in England in 1809. He was a brother to all those people buried in Chester. He was active in the Black Hawk War and became a Lt. Colonel in the Civil War. The family always called him Colonel Francis.

He married the daughter of the first governor of Illinois whose name was Julia Rachel Bond and they had 8 children. Most of the children died young and later Rachel and a couple of children died of cholera.

The next summer Francis married a girl from Scotland, Mary Douglas, and they had 6 children including my husband's great-grandfather, Thornwaite "Thorn" Swanwick. At the end of the Civil War, Francis moved his family to Oswego, Kansas where he became involved in civic and church leadership. Francis and Mary are buried in the Oswego Cemetery in the same town where we live.

My husband's aunt was very involved in genealogy and she and her husband traveled to Swanwick Illinois to take pictures of the Swanwick Mansion in the 1960s. She brought us back a brick from the homestead and we treasure it even today. My husband and I were in Swanwick several years ago but we didn't know where to start looking or who to ask. We knew some of the family are buried on the property.

I sent Nancy pictures that had been shared with me by Barbara Spurgeon from Howard Luthy's collection.



J.S. Szeneswicksi

Thomas Swanwick



Photo added by jayr

BIRTH 1802

DEATH 1876 (aged 73–74)

BURIAL Evergreen Cemetery

Chester, Randolph County, Illinois, USA

MEMORIAL ID 69062880

Family Members

Parents



Thomas Swanwick

1773–1828



Hannah *Thornthwaite* Swanwick

1770–1838

Siblings



John Swanwick

1799–1880



William *Thornthwaite* Swanwick

1804–1835



Elizabeth *Swanwick* Baker

1805–1900



Hannah Swanwick

1806–1900



Francis Swanwick

1809–1883



Mary *Swanwick* Morrison

1810–1838



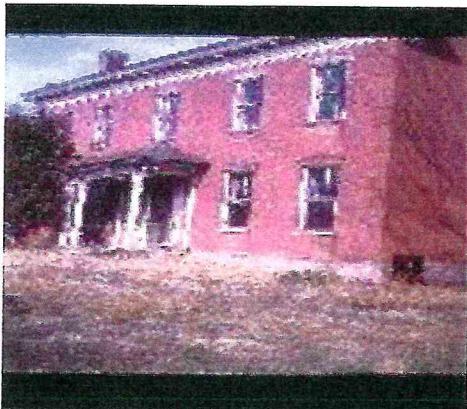
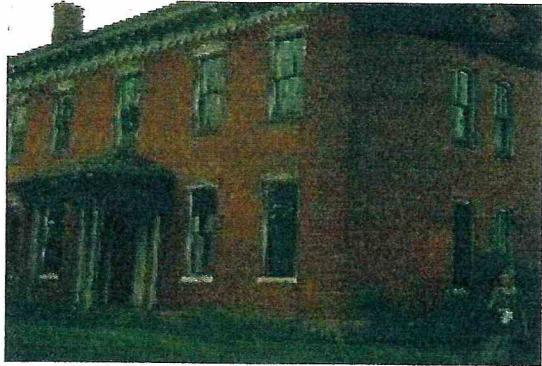
Susannah Swanwick

1813–1899



Jonathan J Swanwick

1814–1891



Original photos by Mamie Pinckard

Written by Shirley Feltmeyer for the Blue Scarab – The Pinckneyville Community High School Magazine. Volume 4 April 15, 1954

Many People have seen The Swanwick Mansion but know little of the history its twelve rooms contain.

I have often passed old houses and wondered what history and secrets they might hold. One such house is located north of the present village of Swanwick. With some investigation I found that this house was built for the Jonathan Swanwick family sometime between the years of 1848 and 1850. Its story is a fascinating one indeed.

In 1818, Thomas Swanwick, Jonathan's father, came to America from Chester, England. A year later his wife, five sons, and five daughters joined him in the Grande Cote precinct of Perry County. It is here that Thomas built his home. It is reported that he was an agent for the English government to buy cattle for shipment to his native land.

In 1828, Thomas Swanwick died. Ten years later his wife, Hannah, followed him. Their son Jonathan inherited the title to the land on which the home was built, a tract of approximately 760 acres. Hearing that the Illinois Central intended to build a railroad through that section of land, Jonathan decided to erect a hotel and establish a settlement here. According to Earl Calvin and Meyer, who are in charge of the house now, the bricks used to construct this house were imported from England.

Before the structure was completed, however, the wealthy and ambitious Jonathan Swanwick discovered that the railroad would run a mile and a half south of the hotel. Greatly disappointed at this development, he had the construction work stopped and converted the building into his family home. And he agreed to pay the village \$500 to take his name. There are twelve rooms in this three-story house. Upon entering the folding front door, you see a large curved stairway at the end of a hall running the length of two rooms. If you go to your left, you will find two large rooms, separated by two sliding doors. These rooms are believed to have been used for the parties held by the family. Some of the early settlers recall hearing that visiting dignitaries often came to Chester by boat and were met by stagecoach and taken to the Swanwick home for balls held in these rooms.

To the east of these rooms are the original living and dining rooms. North of these rooms is the kitchen. An interesting part of the kitchen is a small square door cut into the side of the wall. This door was used by the maid to send food into the dining room. It seems that the kitchen maid was not permitted to go into any other room except her own. Her room on the second floor was reached by a small narrow stairway concealed in a closet in the kitchen. This stairway can still be used and can be seen by opening the door to what appears to be a closet.

The second floor consisted mainly of the family bedrooms and maids room. Another unusual feature of this house is that all the rooms, except one, has a huge fireplace in it.

A set of steep narrow steps leads to the third floor. This is a long low room with a large number of dates and poems written on the walls and ceiling. One poem is dated 1890. Although it is not a certainty, many people think this third floor was used as part of the Underground Railroad to help the Negro slaves escape into the North. The Negroes were hidden there during the day and they left at night or when it was thought that they would not be discovered. In order for the Negroes to go safely, the identity of their hiding place had to be kept a secret. Because of this there is no proof that the Swanwick home was actually used as a station.

A short distance from the house is the family graveyard. There one can see the weather beaten tombstones marking the burial place of members of the Thomas Swanwick family. Eliza A. Swanwick, daughter of Jonathan, inherited this land containing approximately 760 acres in 1874. She sold 680 acres of this to William J. Reichart of Reichart Milling Company. Recently John R. Sprague, an attorney of Belleville, Illinois, purchased the land from Reichart. Mr. Sprague has today leased the ground to the G.S. Suppiger Company, also of Belleville. The Suppiger Company planned to raise tomatoes, but because of the dry weather, corn was the main crop raised there last year.

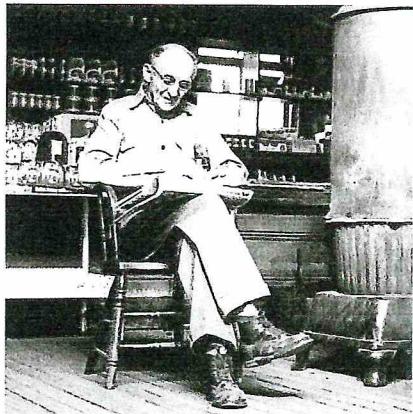
Update: The Swanwick Mansion was torn down a few years ago as it had become unstable and the owners were afraid people poking around would be injured. Too bad more is not known of the inhabitants and history of this building. In recent years the Greer family purchased the farm ground from the Sprague heirs and this has added to their family-based farming operation.



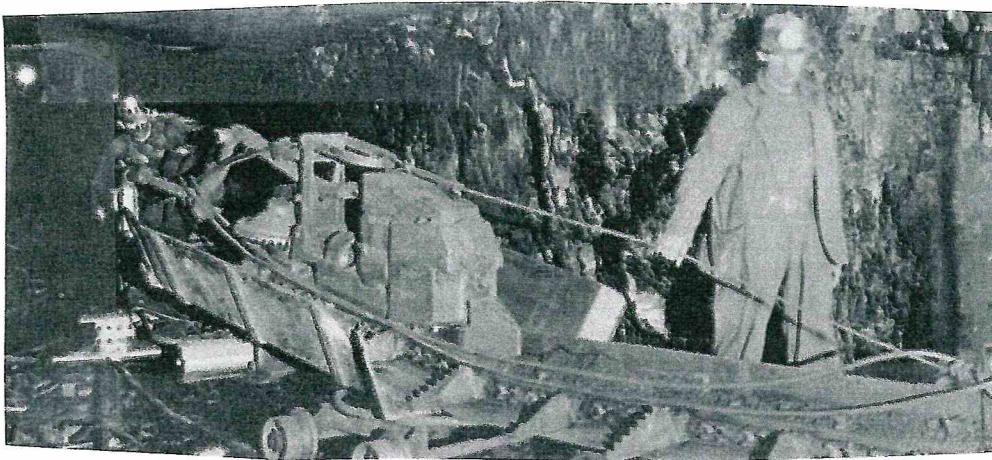


A little bit about Craig in Perry County:

CRAIG – this hamlet is a station on the Cairo Short Line Railroad and is situated on the east half of Section 25, Township 4, Range 4 and on the boundary between Grand Cote and Pinckneyville. It was laid out by William Craig and surveyed and platted by William Golightly, county surveyor, October 23, 1871. The postmaster is J. Allen. A general store is kept by W.L. Pennoyer. This town later became known as Winkle.



Tom Goddard of Winkle Store



When Tom Goddard, shown in this November 1975 photo, closed his store in Winkle, it sounded the death knell for the community. His store once employed 11 people, but by the time it closed, the town only had 27 remaining residents. Winkle remains an incorporated area, found about seven and a half miles northwest of Pinckneyville in Perry County. (The Southern File Photo)

Taken from the 1904 Annual Coal Report:

The Joseph Winkle Mining & Realty Company has sunk a new shaft at Craigs in Perry County. This location is a few miles northwest of Pinckneyville on the Illinois Central railroad. The depth of the shaft is 257 feet to the top of the coal which is 7 feet thick. The company suggests that this is Number 3 seam of the general section, an 18 inch seam and a three foot seam are above the one first named.

The tipple is built of steel; a three-track shaker screen is erected: a battery of four boilers have been installed, with a large first motion Ottumwa engine and a seven-foot drum, also an air compressor. The power plant and powder house are fire proof.

The Winkle Coal Company mine was named Bald Eagle Mine. Total mined out acreage was 291 acres. Production indicates approximately 240 acres were mined after the map date. Both the main shaft and air shaft were located in Section 25 SW NE NW of Township 4, Range 4. The mine's active dates were from 1932 – 1935. 101,474 tons of coal were mined with the last production report coming out in June, 1935.